approved for the current year at varous railway stations are included in the Works Machinery and Rolling Stock Programme, Part-II, presented to the Parliament along with the Railway Budget Documents. An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made for upgradation/renovation/modernisation of railway stations during the current year. Out of this Rs. 18.78 crore is earmarked for new works during 1998-99.

Complaints regarding unsatisfactory sanitation at railway stations

3492. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the number of complaints regarding miserable and unsatisfactory sanitation at railway stations and in passenger trains has of late increased;

(b) if so, the number of such complaints received during last six months; and

(c) what action has been taken or is proposed to be taken to improve sanitation at railway stations and railway trains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 97.

(c) Regular inspections are conducted by officers and supervising staff of Engineering. Commercial, Medical and Mechanical departments and the deficiencies/defects noticed are being attended promptly. Monitoring cells have been set up at Ministry/Zonal/Divisional headquarters' levels to monitor the passenger amenities including cleanliness. Besides, cleanliness drives are also launched periodically for maintaining a proper standard of cleanliness at stations and in trains.

Purchase of A.C. Three Phase Locomotives from ABB.

3493. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether railways have purchased 30 A.C. three phase locomotives for Rs. 641.49 crores from ABB and out of which 23 locomotives failed during the commissioning trial in 1993;

(b) Whether those locomotives are in running condition and if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether the said deal has been adversely commented upon by C.A.G. and if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) Yes, Sir, it is partly correct. Indian Railways purchased 30 nos. (10 passenger and 20 freight) AC three phase locomotives from ABB for Rs. 641.49 crores which were received from October 1995 onwards and thus question of their failure during the year 1993 does not arise.

(b) Yes, Sir. These locomotives are in running condition. The passenger locomotives have been deployed to haul *Rajdhani/Shatabdi* trains and Paryag Raj Express. Similarly, freight locomotives are regularly hauling freight trains on Eastern and Northern Railways.

(c) Yes, Sir. It is fact that certain aspects have been adversely commented upon by Comptroller & Auditor General's (C&AG) in its Report. The main issues raised in the Report are: acquisition of three phase AC technology at a cost of Rs. 22.00 crores per loco in preference to thyristor technolgy locomotive procured in the year 1985, payment of commitment charges to Asian Development Bank on unutilised portion of loan, delay in indigenisation due to restrictive conditions in transfer of technology and delay in rectification of defects